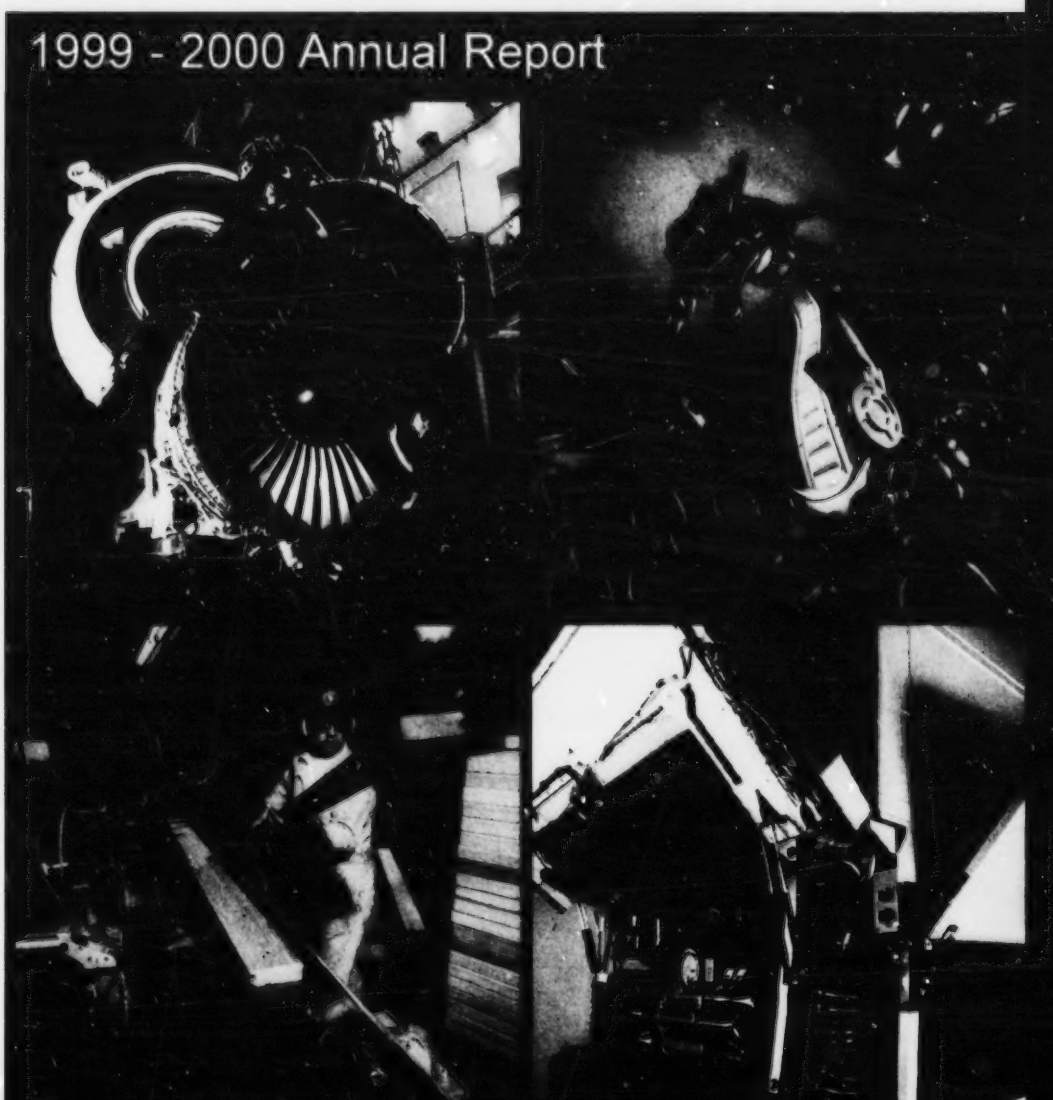
Ministry of Employment and Investment

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

1999 - 2000 Annual Report



DOC
BC
E4037
B
1999/00
c.3

BRITISH COLUMBIA

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
3 3298 00230 6265

Employment and Investment

1999/2000 Annual Report

www.gov.bc.ca/ei

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
British Columbia. Ministry of Employment and Investment
Annual report. -- 1993/94 -
Annual.
Continues: British Columbia. Ministry of Economic Development, Small Business and Trade. Annual report.
ISSN 1192-7232.
ISSN 1203-9195 = Annual report - British Columbia. Ministry of Employment and Investment
1. British Columbia. Ministry of Employment and Investment - Periodicals. 2. Manpower policy - British Columbia - Periodicals 3. British Columbia - Economic policy - Periodicals. 4. British Columbia - Commercial policy - Periodicals. I. Title.
HC117.B7B74 354.7110682'05 C96-960060-7

101-01713/

Honourable Garde Gardom
Lieutenant-Governor
Province of British Columbia

May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the annual report of the Ministry of Employment and Investment for the period of April 1, 1999, to March 31, 2000.

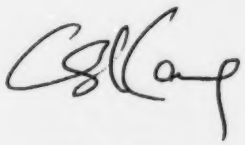
Tim Stevenson

Tim Stevenson
Minister of Employment and Investment

Honourable Tim Stevenson
Minister of Employment and Investment
Province of British Columbia

Dear Minister:

I respectfully submit the annual report of the Ministry of Employment and Investment for the period of April 1, 1999, to March 31, 2000.



Charles Kang
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Employment and Investment

Table of contents

Ministry at a glance 9

Highlights and accomplishments 11

Ministry overview and structure 13
- Mandate 13
- General responsibilities 13
- Organizational structure 15

Creating and protecting jobs 19
- Develops trade opportunities 19
- Fosters international and domestic private-sector investment 21
- Facilitates and co-ordinates strategic public-sector capital investments 24
- Works with the public sector in its economic development responsibilities 24
- Encourages the revitalization of traditional industries 26

Management services 27
- Corporate relations 27
- Finance and administration 27
- Human resources 27
- Information management 28
- Community development 29

Communications 31

Legislation 33

Ministry expenditure summary 35

Ministry at a glance

The Ministry of Employment and Investment is the lead provincial agency for creating and protecting jobs and stimulating investment across B.C.

The ministry:

- develops trade opportunities
- fosters international and domestic private-sector investment
- facilitates and co-ordinates strategic public-sector capital investments
- works with the public sector in its economic development responsibilities, and,
- encourages the revitalization of traditional industries.

Highlights and accomplishments

The ministry was involved in numerous initiatives during the 1999/00 fiscal year. Here are the highlights and major accomplishments:

BC Trade and Investment Office:

- Negotiated Industrial Incentive Fund loans totalling $66.7 million on a commercial basis to companies including Avcorp Industries, Conair Aviation, Hydroxyl Systems, Meeker Cedar Products, MTU Maintenance Canada, Seanix Technologies, Vancouver Film Studios and West Coast Forest Products.
- Negotiated loan guarantees totalling $50.8 million for Skeena Cellulose, Canadian Cartographics, Pearl Sea Products, SPL Septage Processing and West Coast Forest Products.
- Negotiated an $85-million, 10-year financing package with Western Star Trucks to assist in the establishment of a new truck manufacturing plant and industrial park.
- Oversaw the province's investment and commitment to restructure and modernize the operation of Skeena Cellulose and entered into negotiations for its potential sale as a viable commercial enterprise.
- Supported the activities of the Job Protection Commission, which helped maintain 7,466 jobs in 1999.
- Managed $23 million in investments in the BC Investment Fund.
- Co-ordinated outgoing and incoming international missions, including the premier's participation in the Team Canada mission to Tokyo and Osaka and the minister's missions to New York, London and Oslo.
- Continued to advance a fuel cell commercialisation strategy.
- Prepared and distributed profiles of B.C. sectoral and technological capacities in fuel cells, aerospace, biotechnology, new media, photonics and the wood products industry.
- Co-ordinated the province's involvement in, and provided analytical support for efforts to expand the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- Managed the business immigration program, which included delivering seminars, that attracted approximately 1,000 attendees.
- Undertook a number of activities to promote investment.
- Provided business analysis and financial assistance for a number of economic initiatives.
- Managed international offices in London and Tokyo and an agent in Taipei.
- Co-ordinated the B.C. Export Award Program, providing a significant marketing boost to five award-winning companies.

Economic Development Division:

- Organized Premier's Summits on Economic Opportunity for the Cariboo-Chilcotin (108 Mile Ranch, May 12-14, 1999) and for Vancouver Island/Coast (Oct. 20-22, 1999).
- The ministry worked to facilitate and retain investment and jobs through its Power for Jobs Development Act. Under the Act, in the 1999/00 fiscal year, orders in council for the following Power for Jobs agreements were signed:
  - Gibraltar Mines located at McLeese Lake — eligible to receive up to 30 MW for a new pit to extend the life of the mine, retaining 270 jobs.
  - Highland Valley Copper at Logan Lake — eligible to receive up to 131 MW of power under a development power rate linked to copper prices, retaining 1,000 jobs. This is part of the Job Protection Commission economic plan.
  - Louisiana Pacific at Chetwynd — eligible to receive up to 60 MW of power, retaining 180 jobs. This is a part of the Job Protection Commission economic plan.
- Co-ordinated the delivery of more than $800 million of Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Works projects, creating more than 11,000 jobs on more than 600 projects.
- Participated at the World Trade Organization talks held in Seattle, Wash.
- Continued to provide management oversight of activities related to the water use plan program as it applies to all BC Hydro facilities.
- Developed and published a guide to assist users in filing and cancelling a claim of builders lien.
- Worked with the business task force on streamlining regulations pertaining to the construction industry.
- Co-ordinated the ministry's input into on-going development of B.C.'s greenhouse gas strategy including a lead role in electricity issues.
- Played a key role in delineating a B.C. position on mandatory electric reliability standards in context of the North American Reliability Council's push for legislation and international agreements.
- With the assistance of the B.C. forestry industry, secured a commitment from the federal government to initiate consultations in the World Trade Organization challenging the European Union's ban on green lumber imports from Canada.
- Continued a public consultation process to determine B.C.'s interests and position in the ongoing Free Trade Area of the Americas and the proposed World Trade Organization millennium round by posting 16 papers on the ministry's Web site.
- Played a key role in delineating the province's concerns regarding the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) and was instrumental in helping focus B.C.'s concerns opposing the MAI.
- Encouraged the federal government to take steps to ensure Canada's water resource is beyond the reach of Canada's international trade obligations.
- Developed a statistical profile of B.C.'s construction industry, updated regularly and available on the ministry's Web site.
- Initiated discussion and analysis of a clean energy strategy for B.C.

Ministry overview and structure

Mandate

To assist in creating jobs and protecting existing employment throughout B.C. through leadership in trade, investment and capital development.

General responsibilities

- Develops trade opportunities by:
  - ensuring B.C. has a strong presence in international markets through offshore representation, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region,
  - encouraging the export of B.C. goods and services, and
  - hosting and co-ordinating outgoing and incoming trade missions.

- Fosters international and domestic private-sector investment by:
  - working with the private sector to promote investment opportunities,
  - undertaking comparative analysis of competing jurisdictions,
  - assisting potential investors to gain access to information, which will facilitate investment such as site evaluation data, skills availability, etc.,
  - providing assistance on projects and investments that require financial participation and/or partnership with the provincial government,
  - participating in financial assistance negotiations and completing due diligence analysis for the ministry, the Job Protection Commission, Fisheries Renewal BC, the BC Transportation Financing Authority, and other ministries and agencies,
  - working to develop, maintain and pursue opportunities in knowledge-based and value-added industries,
  - levering trade and investment through responsibility for the following legislation/agencies:
    - Job Protection Act/Commission
    - Industrial Development Incentive Act/Industrial Incentive Fund
    - Natural Resource Community Fund Act
    - International Financial Centre
    - Enterprise Corporation Act/Agency
    - Special Enterprise Zones and Tax Relief Act
    - Trade Development Corporation Act
    - Victoria Line Ltd., and,
    - Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre Authority.
  - drawing on other instruments throughout government and the private sector, including the BC Investment Fund, Forest Renewal BC, Fisheries Renewal BC, the BC Transportation Financing Authority, the Crown Corporations Secretariat, Duke Point Developments Ltd., Equity Funds, the Financial Administration Act, the International Financial (Tax Refund) Act, the International Maritime Centre, the Working Opportunity Fund, etc., to promote

and lever additional private-sector investment activity.

- Encourages the revitalization of traditional industries by providing counselling and mediation services and developing economic plans to maintain jobs in strategic industries affected by restructuring and undertaking special projects and recommending government financial participation with qualifying businesses.

Organizational structure

The ministry's structure includes one office, three divisions, one branch and a secretariat reporting to the deputy minister:

- BC Trade and Investment Office (BCTIO)
- Economic Development division
- Management Services division
- Communications division
- Corporate Relations branch, and,
- Gaming Policy Secretariat (until July 21, 1999).

The ministry was also responsible for housing programs until July 21, 1999.

There were also two commissions, the B.C. Racing Commission and B.C. Gaming Commission, which reported to the minister until July 21, 1999.

- BC Trade and Investment Office
  - facilitates and promotes international and domestic private-sector investment
  - enhances and expands B.C. export opportunities
  - maintains knowledge and awareness of the B.C. economy and the industrial and business sectors
  - pursues projects and programs that strengthen and diversify the economic base of the province, with emphasis on sectors that offer significant potential within the international marketplace in the 21st century, and,
  - supports the creation and maintenance of long-term jobs and development of the economy in all regions of B.C.

BCTIO has six branches:

- Finance and Project Evaluation
- Investment Facilitation
- Strategic Industries
- International Services
- Japan Trade, and,
- Strategic Business Unit — Asia/Pacific.

BCTIO has trade and investment representatives in the following locations around the world:

- Tokyo, Japan
- Taipei, Taiwan, and,
- London, United Kingdom.

- Economic Development division:
  - provides — to the other divisions, ministries, Crown corporations and Cabinet — policy development, analysis, advice, co-ordination, research, impact assessment and information in support of:
    - economic development
    - job creation
    - electricity development, and,

    - international and domestic trade agreements.
- is the lead provincial agency and co-ordinating body for joint federal/provincial programs (e.g., Infrastructure Works, Western Economic Partnership Agreement)
- is the lead agency for negotiating electricity rates under the Power for Jobs Development Act, aimed at encouraging new investment and sustaining existing investment
- co-ordinates ministry involvement in transportation and trade corridor initiatives having potential for wide economic impacts
- provides support and advice to the private sector concerning international and domestic trade agreements and issues
- conducts intergovernmental relations with respect to economic development, and,
- assists the public sector in its economic development responsibilities.

The division has four branches:
- International Trade
- Economics
- Economic Partnerships, and,
- Electricity Development.

The division also includes the Summit Office, which provides support and co-ordination for Premier's Economic Summits.

The Construction Secretariat reports to the assistant deputy minister of the Economic Development division. The secretariat:
- provides a central point of access for addressing policy and regulatory issues affecting the construction industry
- is responsible for administering the Builders Lien Act and provides support to both industry and the public, and,
- co-ordinates stakeholder agencies in an effort to strengthen linkages between government and industry.

❑ Management Services division:
- services the needs of the ministry's management and staff in the areas of:
    - finance
    - administration
    - personnel
    - information systems
    - library
    - information and privacy, and,
    - employment equity.

The division has four components:
- Finance and Administration branch
- Human Resources branch
- Information Management branch, and,
- Community Development Unit (until July 21, 1999, when it was transferred to the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers).

This division also provides these services to the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers (after it was created in July 1999) and the Northern Development Commission and the Oil and Gas Commission.

Communications division:

- provides all communications, media and public relations, and issues management for the ministry
- serves as the central communications agency for the government's jobs strategy
- executes a lead role with other ministries, agencies and Crown corporations in co-ordinating and facilitating all communications activities through strategic communications planning and proactive implementation of:
  - media relations
  - news and public releases
  - speeches
  - event planning and co-ordination, and,
  - advertising and marketing.
- undertakes similar responsibilities for all ministry programs and provides strategic communications advice to the minister, the deputy minister, the executive committee and program managers
- oversees the communications activities and issues management for Crown corporations in the minister's portfolio, and,
- initiates and responds to the government's key strategic priorities, in particular, the ministry's involvement in creating jobs and enhancing economic development through sound investments in B.C.

- Corporate Relations branch:
  - manages and co-ordinates the Cabinet committee decision-making process and legislative program for the ministry
  - maintains information and co-ordinates appointments of members to Crown corporations, agencies, boards and commissions, and,
  - manages and/or provides support for strategic and operational planning processes within the ministry and on key projects or corporate initiatives for the deputy minister and the ministry.

- Gaming Policy Secretariat:
  - develops gaming policy in close consultation with the gaming sector stakeholders — BC Lottery Corporation, BC Gaming Commission, BC Racing Commission, Gaming Audit and Investigation Office and Adult Addiction Services of the Ministry for Children and Families. (The secretariat was transferred to the Ministry of Labour in July 1999.)

The following Crown corporations and agencies report to the Minister of Employment and Investment:

- BC Utilities Commission — an independent agency that regulates natural gas, electric, heating and propane utilities and ensures that the rates they charge are fair while maintaining a safe, reliable and viable utility industry.
- Job Protection Commission — provides mediation services and assists parties involved in a business closure to work co-operatively to develop plans to solve the problems facing the business

- BC Hydro and Power Authority — the province's public electricity utility (until Feb. 29, 2000)
- BC Community Financial Services Corporation — operates the community-based financial institution, Four Corners Community Savings, which provides a full range of financial and related services to residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside who may not otherwise have access to basic banking services. (The corporation was transferred to the new Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers on July 21, 1999.)
- BC Gaming Commission — licenses and regulates charitable gaming and administers funding for community-based charitable, religious and other purposes. (The Gaming Commission was transferred to the Ministry of Labour on July 21, 1999.)
- BC Lottery Corporation — conducts and manages lottery games in the province and co-operates with other provinces in the conduct and marketing of nation-wide lottery games. (The Lottery Corporation was transferred to the Ministry of Labour on July 21, 1999.), and,
- BC Racing Commission — governs, directs, controls and regulates horseracing in the province and ensures a high standard of integrity in standardbred and thoroughbred racing to maintain the confidence of the betting public in the industry. (The Racing Commission was transferred to the Ministry of Labour on July 21, 1999.)

The ministry was also responsible for housing programs until July 21, 1999 when they were transferred to the new Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security. Housing programs:

- provide a contribution to the B.C. Housing Management Commission for the protection and enhancement of the supply of adequate and affordable housing, and,
- support the B.C. Housing Management Commission in providing administration of the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters program, which provides eligible seniors assistance with their shelter costs.

Creating and protecting jobs

Develops trade opportunities
The ministry identifies and assesses international and national trade opportunities for B.C. businesses and undertakes multilateral trade negotiations and trade development initiatives, provides market research and fosters local expertise to facilitate the realization of these opportunities.

In the area of international markets, during the period of this annual report, the ministry:

- co-ordinated and developed B.C.'s policies and positions for international trade negotiations to secure maximum access for B.C. exporters while protecting vulnerable domestic sectors.
  - monitored and commented on Canada's activities on multilateral trade agreements and negotiations involving the World Trade Organization and its predecessor the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade
  - played a key role in delineating the province's concerns regarding the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) and was instrumental in helping focus B.C.'s concerns opposing the MAI
  - represented B.C.'s interests in Canada's regional trade negotiations such as:
    North American Free Trade Agreement and its parallel accords on labour and the environment
    - Canada-Chile Trade Agreement
    - Canada-Israel Trade Agreement
    - Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation initiative
    - Free Trade Area of the Americas, and,
    - Canada-Costa Rica Trade Agreement.
- developed and initiated a consultation process to determine the province's position regarding the ongoing negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the proposed global negotiations at the World Trade Organization.
- encouraged the federal government to take steps to ensure Canada's water resource is beyond the reach of Canada's international trade obligations.
- completed discussions with other provinces, the federal government and various U.S. entities on electric reliability and trade in Western North America to ensure access and regulatory sovereignty.
- represented and advanced B.C.'s interests in international trade disputes, including:
  - cattle dispute with the U.S.
  - challenges to the Canadian supply management system

- various challenges under the North American Free Trade Agreement, including an investor-state claim relating to bulk water removals
- Asian import licensing restrictions affecting B.C. products
- threatened restrictions on Canadian wine, and,
- threats to Canada's drug patent system.

- with the assistance of the B.C. forestry industry, played a key role in the federal government's continued efforts to challenge the European Union's ban of green lumber imports from Canada.

- co-ordinated B.C.'s participation in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), an organization consisting of legislators and key private-sector representatives from the five Pacific Northwest states — Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington — and B.C., Alberta and the Yukon. Through membership in PNWER, the provincial government has ensured that issues of importance to B.C., such as the development of transboundary transportation corridors, remain at the forefront of PNWER discussions.

- worked with the Ministry of Forests on the softwood lumber agreement with the U.S.

- ensured B.C.'s strong presence through its foreign offices — particularly in the Asia-Pacific region where markets present the greatest growth potential — by managing international representation in three offshore locations, ensuring the delivery of cost-effective professional services to both government and the business community.

In the area of domestic markets the ministry:

- developed and co-ordinated B.C.'s trade strategies for Canadian intergovernmental negotiations to represent the provincial government's interests in interprovincial trade and other domestic trade negotiations:
  - assisted B.C. businesses with trade access problems in other provinces, and,
  - ensured B.C.'s trade interests were met:
    - maintained the provincial government's log export policy
    - exempted Medicare and social services from the Agreement on Internal Trade
    - developed business incentives required to support economic development, and,
    - ensured ongoing internal trade agreement negotiations do not encroach upon B.C.'s autonomy over its social and economic development programs.

- provided basic trade data and analysis for other ministries and the public.

Fosters international and domestic private-sector investment

The ministry marketed B.C.'s investment potential to domestic and international investors.

It also worked in partnership with existing businesses to expand their operations to create jobs or to preserve existing ones.

To facilitate investment in the B.C. economy the ministry:

- managed the business immigration program, which included delivering seminars that attracted approximately 1,000 attendees,
- managed $23 million in investments in the BC Investment Fund, authorized under the Immigration Act,
- implemented the first year of a pilot program jointly with Citizenship and Immigration Canada to attract business immigrants and to encourage prospective business immigrants to visit the province,
- participated in a public-private partnership with Telus and six regional communities to position and promote B.C. as a quality location for high end call centres,
- improved and updated the BCTIO Web site to ensure company profiles, and sector and investment information are current,
- supported the International Financial Centre, which completed international financial transactions of more than $1 billion, and
- provided comparative locational analysis service to more than two dozen potential investment projects.

The ministry worked to increase exports by engaging in strategic industry development activities including:

- co-ordinating outgoing and incoming international missions such as,
  - the Premier's participation in the Team Canada mission to Tokyo and Osaka,
  - the ministers' missions to New York, London and Oslo,
  - the site selection analysis for the establishment of a value-added wood products showroom in India for B.C. Wood Specialties Group and other private sector companies,
  - federal/provincial business immigration mission to Latin America, and
  - hosted visit programs for 130 international trade and investment delegations to B.C. from 35 countries.
- co-ordinating the B.C. Export Award program, providing a significant marketing boost to five award winners,
- managing provincial representation in London, Tokyo and Taipei,
- implementing the strategy to streamline the network of international offices,
- providing information on B.C. companies' activity in specific geographic regions where B.C. has local representation,
- providing and co-ordinating support on forest certification issues throughout government,
- supporting strategic alliances such as,
  - supporting the Canada Comfort Direct marketing initiative for value-added building products, which generated more than $110 million in sales to Japan benefiting over 100 B.C. companies,
  - supporting three international conferences and trade shows in B.C. – Aerospace North America, Softworld 99 and GLOBE 2000 – and co-ordinating the government presence and government-industry collaboration at the shows,
  - supporting a marketing initiative in Japan representing a number of

leading B.C. environmental service firms,

- contributing to the province's Green Economy initiative through the establishment of a Green Buildings pilot project and through the promotion of B.C.'s environmental innovation,
- collaborating with New Media B.C. in its initiatives to promote the innovative capacity of the province's new media industry, and
- continuing to advance fuel-cell commercialization by developing a fuel-cell commercialization strategy to maximize future supply chain opportunities for B.C.-based manufacturers of fuel-cell components, focusing on employment and investment potential for B.C., and initiating an informal supply-chain company network.

In the area of strategic issues/projects, the ministry:

- co-ordinated the province's involvement and provided analytical support for efforts to expand the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre,
- continued to oversee the province's investment and commitment to restructure and modernize the operations of Skeena Cellulose Inc., saving 1,100 jobs and entered into negotiations for its potential sale as a viable commercial enterprise,
- negotiated an $85-million, 10-year financing package with Western Star Trucks to assist in the establishment of a new truck manufacturing plant and industrial park creating up to 2,200 directly related jobs.

In some cases, the ministry provided business analysis and financial assistance to specific projects in order to create or preserve jobs such as,

- negotiating and finalizing Industrial Incentive Fund financial participation for Avcorp Industries ($4 million), Conair Aviation ($17.5 million), Hydroxyl Systems ($2 million), Meeker Cedar Products ($0.7 million), MTU Maintenance Canada ($19.5 million), Seanix Technologies ($2 million), Vancouver Film Studios ($20 million) and West Coast Forest Products ($1 million),
- negotiating and finalizing new loan guarantees for Skeena Cellulose ($50 million), Canadian Cartographics ($0.1 million), Pearl Sea Products ($0.1 million), SPL Septage Processing ($0.3 million) and West Coast Forest Products ($0.3 million),
- supporting the activities of the Job Protection Commission,
- leading the financial assistance negotiations and completing due diligence analysis for the ministry, Job Protection Commission, BC Transportation Financing Authority, Fisheries Renewal BC and other ministries for provincial financial participation in projects,
- reviewing requests for provincial funding totalling more than $300 million, and
- advancing the $8.6-million provincial funding and participating in the project steering committee for the Ballard Power Systems project to commercialize fuel cells for buses.

Facilitates and co-ordinates strategic public-sector capital investments

The ministry facilitated and co-ordinated public-sector capital investments to ensure that economic development activities were consistent with and supported the provincial government's job creation priority.

In so doing the ministry:

- co-chaired the Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Works Program (IWP) agreement for the provincial government, co-ordinated the activities of the various partner agencies, reviewed program applications and directly administered projects.
  The first phase (IWP1):
  - provided $675 million to upgrade provincial infrastructure and create jobs on approved projects over the agreement's lifetime with the funding shared equally by the federal and provincial governments and a project's proponent, and,
  - allocated 85 per cent of the funding for projects related to water, sewer and local transportation services and 15 per cent for other infrastructure projects that provide enhanced public services and result in significant economic benefits.

IWP1 resulted in about 400 projects receiving approval by March 31, 1997 — representing a commitment of nearly $675 million and resulting in about 9,000 jobs created throughout B.C.

The second phase (IWP2) was a top-up to the program announced in April 1997, which combined contributions from federal, provincial and local partners for a total of more than $160 million. IWP2 focused on road and transit improvements with some funds targeted to soft infrastructure projects such as cultural and telecommunications projects. IWP2 resulted in more than 200 projects resulting in more than 2,600 jobs.

Works with the public sector in its economic development responsibilities

The ministry is the lead government agency responsible for creating jobs by developing and promoting sustainable economic growth throughout B.C.

During the period of this annual report the ministry did this in several ways:

- provided a central policy and planning function for the public sector:
  - established the Construction Secretariat to continue its consultations on various regulatory issues, including regulatory streamlining
  - co-ordinated and managed Premier's Summits on Economic Opportunity for the Cariboo-Chilcotin (108 Mile Ranch, May 1999) and for Vancouver Island/Coast (Courtenay and Campbell River, October 1999), and,
  - co-ordinated follow-up work for all earlier summits, including Sirolli Enterprise Facilitation projects.
- developed positions and strategies on the impact of, and management opportunities within the B.C. electricity sector:
  - developed a provincial position in response to electric reliability concerns raised by the federal

government and the Canadian Electrical Association, and,
- managed a program to provide more favourable electricity rates to new and expanding investment in B.C., including initiating new negotiations with several applicants.

- continued to participate in both provincial and national efforts to develop strategic direction for the management of greenhouse gases
- initiated discussions on a Clean Energy Strategy for B.C.
- managed the Build BC Special Account under the Build BC Act
- in co-operation with other provincial agencies, managed key transportation issues that have potentially wide economic and employment implications:
  - co-ordinated the provincial analysis and positioning with respect to airline restructuring in Canada
  - provided support for provincial response on grain transportation and northern transportation issues, and,
  - developed options to review factors affecting the competitive position of the province's major ports and terminals.
- worked with other ministries and agencies to support job creation and economic development opportunities:
  - conducted research and analysis on aluminium smelter development and other manufacturing,
  - provided impact assessments for the multi-stakeholder land and resources management planning tables in various forest districts around the province,
  - assessed applications for major timber tenure awards,
  - contributed to assessment of options for facilitation of aboriginal economic development initiatives,
  - provided policy and analytical support to the Environmental Assessment Office for industrial development and electricity projects,
  - represented government at the Federal/Provincial Forest Industry Development Forum,
  - analyzed economic implications of and recommended mergers and acquisition in the forest sector,
  - supported provincial participation in negotiations for devolution of Victoria Harbour,
  - co-ordinated the B.C./Washington Corridor Task Force including work on the Inland Corridors initiative and the International Mobility and Trade Corridor project, and,
  - continued to provide management oversight of the Water Use Plan program, a partnership with other provincial agencies, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and First Nations.

Encourages the revitalization of traditional industries

Job Protection Commission

The ministry supports the Job Protection Commission in helping viable companies restructure to continue to be competitive and preserve jobs for British Columbians.

- The commission:
  - provides consulting, counselling or mediation services to businesses that are economically significant to their communities or region,

- assists in the development of economic plans for eligible companies — these plans involve obligations to the province and are only available to strategic industries — fabricated structural metal products, fishing, logging, mining, non-ferrous metal smelting and refining, shipbuilding and repair, truck and bus body and trailer, and wood, paper and allied products,
- undertakes special projects and recommends government financial assistance to qualifying businesses, and,
- links Job Protection Commission actions with Power for Jobs.

- Between its inception in March 1991 and Dec. 31, 1999, the commission received 1,520 inquiries that led to 963 projects/cases, which resulted in 58,236 jobs being maintained, including 20,756 jobs saved.

- During the calendar year 1999, the commission:
  - undertook 56 projects/cases,
  - provided counselling to 23 firms,
  - developed 31 economic plans,
  - carried out two special projects, and,
  - helped maintain 7,466 jobs in total.

Management services

The ministry implements management support services in the areas of corporate relations, finance and administration, library, human resources, employment equity, information management and community development.

Corporate relations:

- managed and co-ordinated the Cabinet committee decision-making process and the legislative program of the ministry and Crown corporations in the minister's portfolio,
- managed and/or provided support for strategic and operational planning processes within the ministry and co-ordinated key projects and corporate initiatives for the deputy minister and the ministry,
- co-ordinated all materials and decision documents for Cabinet and Cabinet committees and worked with Treasury Board staff and the Cabinet Operations in scheduling all presentations, and,
- maintained information and co-ordinated appointments of board members to the ministry's Crown corporations, agencies, boards and commissions.

Finance and administration:

- commenced implementation of new government-wide financial system for April 2000 startup,
- controlled expenditures, assets, liabilities, revenues, special accounts and funds,
- reported on the ministry's financial status and budgets,
- managed various government companies,
- managed facilities, telecommunications, vehicles and administrative records,
- provided finance and administration services to the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers, Oil and Gas Commission, BC Racing Commission, BC Gaming Commission, Gaming Policy Secretariat, Columbia Power Corporation, CIDA Peru project, Northern Development Commission and Job Protection Commission,
- expanded library Internet site allowing public access to publications and maps,
- commenced project to preserve old documents and photographs for future generations,
- responded to more than 3,200 library reference queries and served more than 2,100 library visitors,
- assisted with the orderly transfer of housing programs to the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security and of the BC Racing Commission, BC Gaming Commission and Gaming Policy Secretariat to the Ministry of Labour, and,
- assisted with the startup and establishment of the new Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers.

Human resources:

- managed the human resources elements of establishing the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers including classifying and staffing new positions,
- successfully expanded student hiring,
- provided discrimination and harassment awareness training to new staff,
- supported employment equity initiatives by giving preference to designated group members in auxiliary hiring and continuing to monitor and remove potential barriers to employment,
- co-ordinated the ministry's multiculturalism initiatives,
- managed ongoing workforce adjustment,
- implemented the new public service job evaluation plan,
- participated in the development of the corporate framework describing the skill and knowledge competencies required of human resource professionals, and,
- co-ordinated the Provincial Employees Community Services fund campaign for the ministry's Victoria offices.

Information management:

- managed successful transition of hardware and software through Year 2000 date rollover,
- completed ministry systems plan as per Information Science and Technology Agency (ISTA) requirements,
- completed startup activities for the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers,
- continued upgrades to shared corporate equipment to provide improved service and room for fast-paced growth,
- improved security of ministry systems for virus protection and restriction of access to network facilities,
- completed detailed inventory of computer assets for three supported ministries (Ministry of Employment and Investment, Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers),
- converted main ministry Internet sites to comply with government standards,
- participated in and supported cross-government initiatives including Windows 2000 deployment planning and the development of government wide Internet/Intranet standards,
- implemented new web sites for the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers, the Semiconductor Initiative and the Northern Development Commission,
- provided ongoing support in systems, records management and access to information for three ministries (Ministry of Employment and Investment, Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers),
- made extensive progress on two-year records management project to establish approved ARCS and ORCS and classify documents stored off-site,
- implemented and provided training in ministry-wide automated records management system, and,
- provided ministry training for freedom of information policies and procedures.

Community development: (ministry responsibility until July 21, 1999)

- promoted community development and awareness through public events, seminars, presentations, funding and consultation with various groups,
- provided assistance and employment opportunities, job training, job development and education through programs such as BladeRunners in Victoria, Vernon, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Kelowna and the Lower Mainland; providing training in the construction trades for street-involved youth, and identifying employment opportunities at both private- and public-sector construction projects,
- promoted and developed partnerships with the private, public, non-profit and trade-union sectors to achieve common goals. Examples of partnerships include the BladeRunners program and the Woodwards housing co-op, and,
- continued to support community institutions and services in response to identified community interest. This includes Four Corners Community Savings development savings accounts, a welfare-to-work program, which allows individuals on income assistance to receive loans, and the Four Corners Support Fund Society, which provides loan guarantees for individuals typically not able to access credit.

Communications

Communications played a key role in implementing the ministry's mandate of fostering the creation and preservation of jobs. In the period of this annual report the Communications division:

- disseminated information through 104 news releases on many provincial government initiatives, such as:
  - development of call centres in the province,
  - Aerospace North America and the GLOBE 2000 environmental trade show in Vancouver,
  - federal-provincial Infrastructure Works Program,
  - B.C. Export Awards program,
  - Job Protection Commission economic plans to assist companies,
  - Power for Jobs program,
  - Premier's Summits on Economic Opportunity – Cariboo-Chilcotin and Vancouver Island-Coast, and,
  - the Team Canada trade mission to Japan.
- provided oversight for the communications plans of Crown corporations reporting to the minister,
- provided communications support for various ministry programs and projects and arranged special events and openings of capital projects, such as those undertaken under the Canada-B.C. Infrastructure Works program, and,
- drafted speeches, arranged news conferences and media interviews, produced ministry publications and assisted other agencies and Crown corporations in producing their publications.

Legislation

Legislation administered by the ministry:

- *British Columbia Enterprise Corporation Act*
- *Build BC Act* other than Part 4, in relation to the BC Transportation Financing Authority
- *Builders Lien Act*
- *Community Financial Services Act* (until July 21, 1999)
- *Economic Development Electricity Rate Act*
- *Energy Efficiency Act*
- *Enterprise Corporation Act*
- *Horse Racing Act* (until July 21, 1999)
- *Hydro and Power Authority Act* (until Feb. 29, 2000)
- *Hydro and Power Authority Privatization Act* (until Feb. 29, 2000)
- *Hydro Power Measures Act* (until Feb. 29, 2000)
- *Industrial Development Incentive Act*, other than in relation to the Small Business Incentive Program
- *Job Protection Act*
- *Lottery Act* (until July 21, 1999)
- *Lottery Corporation Act* (until July 21, 1999)
- *Development Act*, other than in relation to small business and tourism
- *Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act*, except immigration provisions
- *Ministry of International Trade, Science and Investment Act*, insofar as it does not relate to the development of science and technology, and does not relate to aid in the development of communications systems for the people of B.C.
- *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*, sections 5(c) and 10 only (until July 21, 1999)
- *Natural Resource Community Fund Act*
- *Pacific Racing Association Act* (until July 21, 1999)
- *Power for Jobs Development Act*
- *Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters Act* (until July 21, 1999)
- *Special Enterprise Zone and Tax Relief Act*
- *Trade Development Corporation Act*, and,
- *Utilities Commission Act.*

Ministry expenditure summary

Audited 1999/00

Expenditures $ in thousands

Ministry Operations (Vote 23)	
Minister's Office	376
Corporate Services (net of recoveries)	13,540
Economic Development	6,522
BC Trade and Investment Office (net of recoveries)	10,267
Reserves for Doubtful Accounts and Concessionary Loans	5,054
	35,759
BC Utilities Commission (Vote 24)	0
Statutory—	
Payments Based on Contributions	0
Special Account —	
Build BC	1,693
Special Fund —	
Natural Resource Community Fund	0
Less: transfer from Vote 23 to the Build BC Special Account	(3,098)
Total Expense	**34,354**